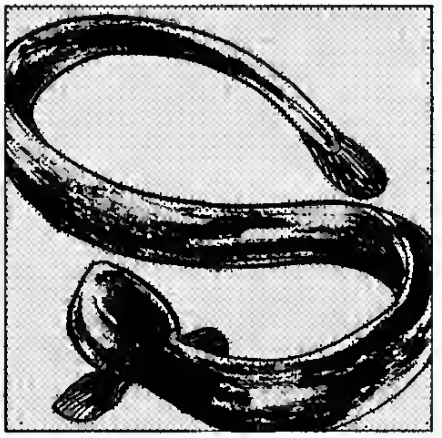
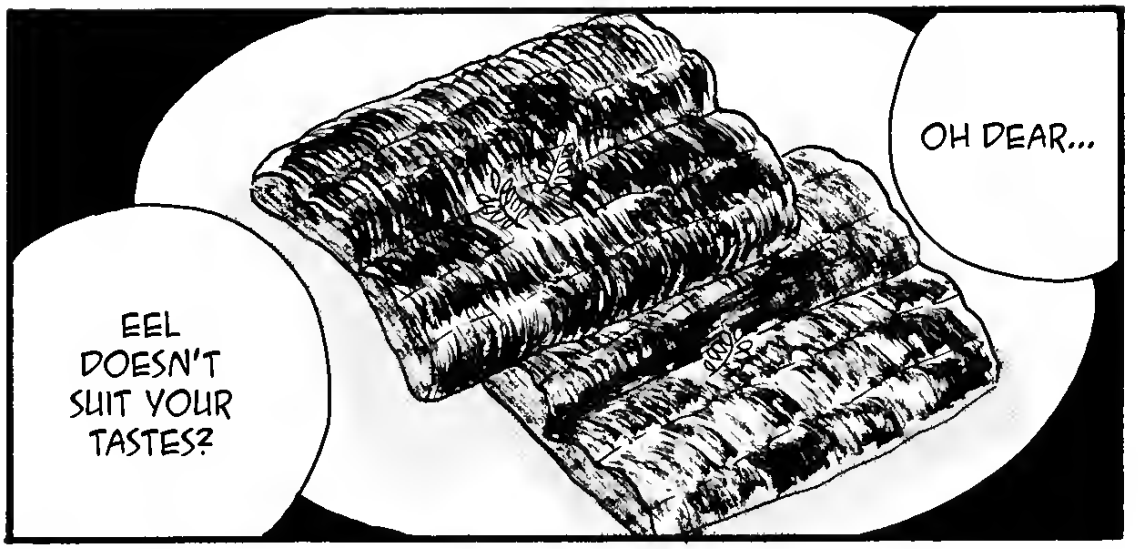
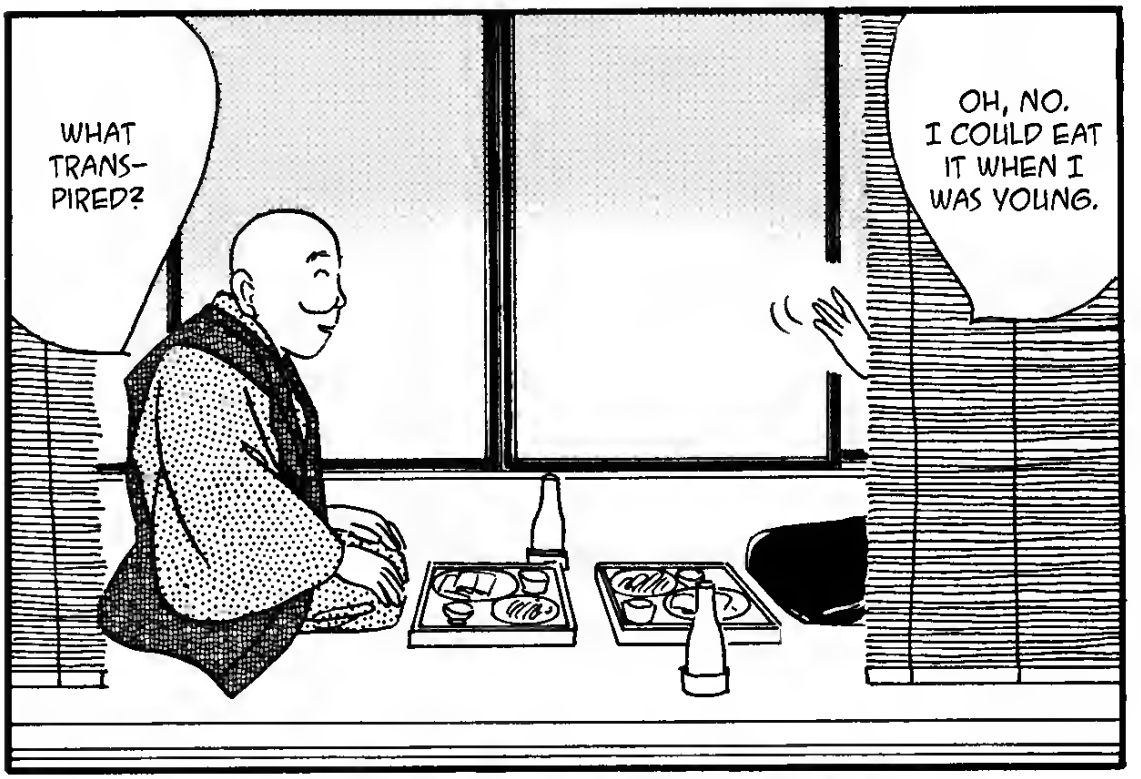
Tale 7

The Eel Horror

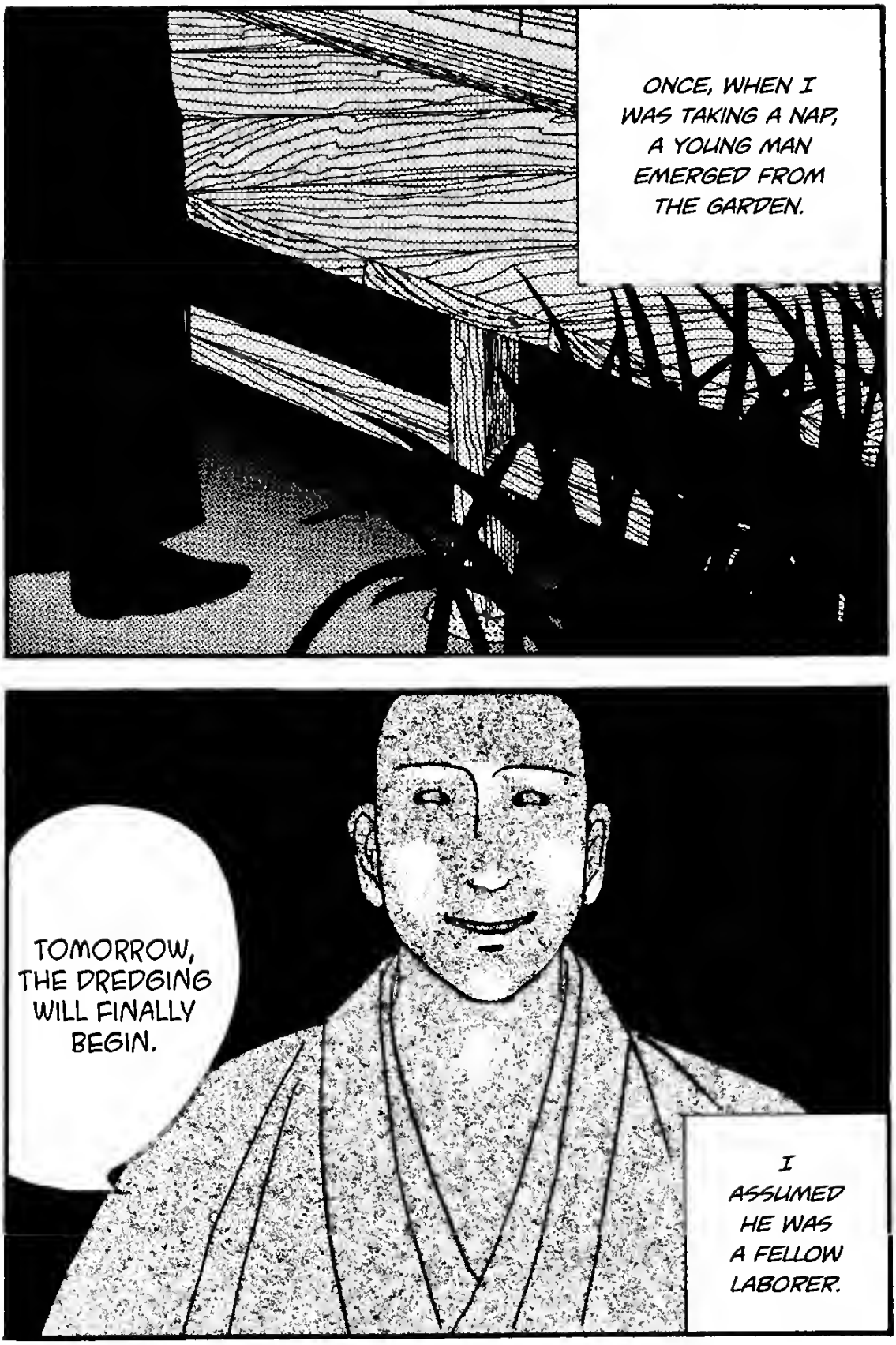


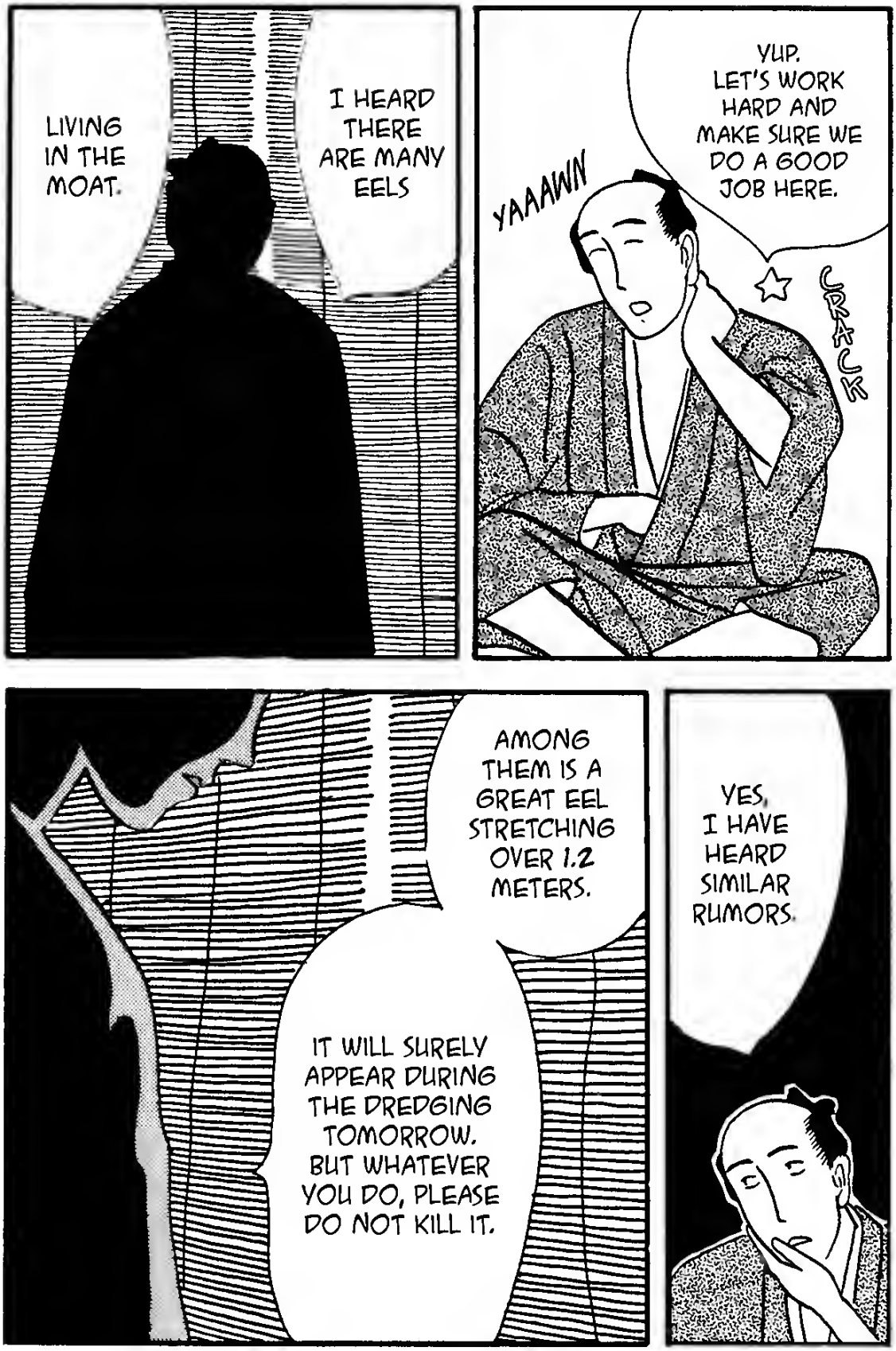

OH DEAR...
EEL DOESN'T SUIT YOUR TASTES?

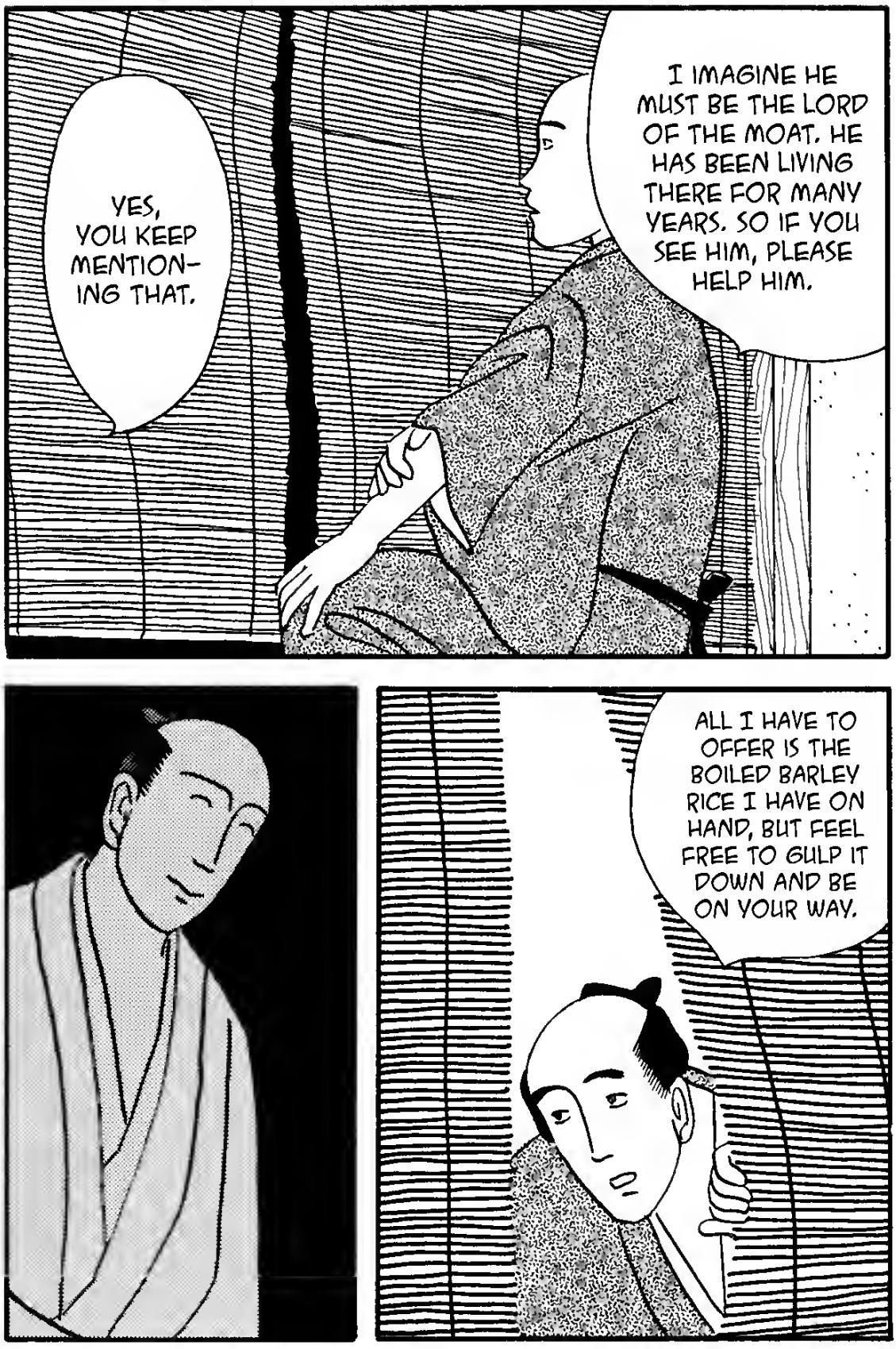

WHAT TRANS-PIRED?
OH, NO. I COULD EAT IT WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

WELL, I HAD A BAD DREAM...

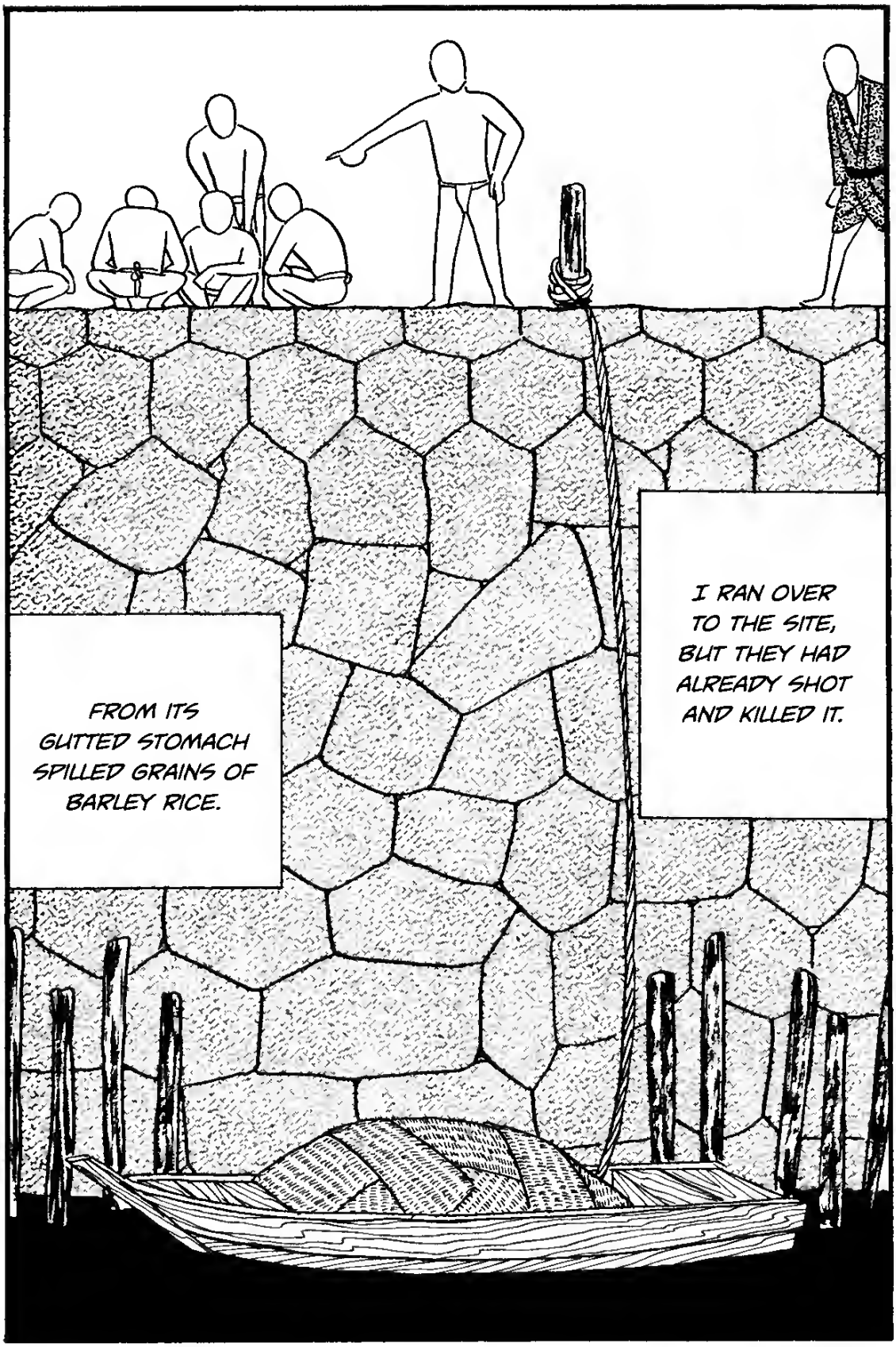
A LONG TIME AGO, I DID SOME MOAT DREDGING LABOR NEAR TORANOMON.


ONCE, WHEN I WAS TAKING A NAP, A YOUNG MAN EMERGED FROM THE GARDEN.
TOMORROW, THE DREDGING WILL FINALLY BEGIN.
I ASSUMED HE WAS A FELLOW LABORER.


LIVING IN THE MOAT.
I HEARD THERE ARE MANY EELS
YAAAWN
YUP. LET'S WORK HARD AND MAKE SURE WE DO A GOOD JOB HERE.
URAUK
AMONG THEM IS A GREAT EEL STRETCHING OVER 1.2 METERS.
IT WILL SURELY APPEAR DURING THE DREDGING TOMORROW. BUT WHATEVER YOU DO, PLEASE DO NOT KILL IT.
YES, I HAVE HEARD SIMILAR RUMORS.


I IMAGINE HE MUST BE THE LORD OF THE MOAT. HE HAS BEEN LIVING THERE FOR MANY YEARS. SO IF YOU SEE HIM, PLEASE HELP HIM.
YES, YOU KEEP MENTION-ING THAT.
ALL I HAVE TO OFFER IS THE BOILED BARLEY RICE I HAVE ON HAND, BUT FEEL FREE TO GULP IT DOWN AND BE ON YOUR WAY.

THE NEXT DAY WHEN I REACHED THE MOAT, I REMEMBERED WHAT HAD OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AND CALLED OUT...
DID ANYONE HAPPEN TO DIG UP A LARGE EEL? I'D LIKE TO HAVE IT IF YOU DID.
I DUG UP A HUGE SUCKER.


I RAN OVER TO THE SITE, BUT THEY HAD ALREADY SHOT AND KILLED IT.
FROM ITS GUTTED STOMACH SPILLED GRAINS OF BARLEY RICE.